(b) if so, the action taken by Government to ensure the shooting of the film in Varanasi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting while considering proposals for shooting of films in India by foreigners, keeps in view the concerns of integrity of the nation, friendly relations with other countries and communal harmony while adhering to the policy of freedom of expression. Permission for shooting in India is subject to certain conditions, one of which is that the completed film will be shown to a representative of the Government of India or in the Indian Mission abroad before it is released anywhere in the world. Further, before release of the film in India it is required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification. These stages are available in order to ensure that nothing objectionable to the image of the country is projected.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is the nodal Ministry for granting approval to proposals to shoot films in India, wholly or partly, by foreigners according to the procedure prescribed in the Visa Manual brought out by the Ministry of External Affairs. The permission granted by the Ministry is subject to certain conditions, one of which is that shooting on locations will be subject to permission being granted by the respective local authorities. As such permission for shooting the film WATER in Varanasi is subject to permission being granted by the local administration.

Advertisements of liquor/tobacco on Doordarshan

368. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lift the ban on advertisements of liquor and tobacco on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether such a step of Government will affect adversely the youngsters and school-going children;

(c) whether Government propose to take such a step under the pressure of liquor barons and MNCs involved in tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) As per existing Doordarshan's Advertisement Codes, advertisements of liquor and tobacco are not permitted on DD Channels. Indian satellite channels, which have been given permission to uplink from India are also required to adhere to the same code. However, liquor and tobacco advertisements are being carried by the satellite TV channels uplinked from outside India. Encrypted TV channels uplinked from India are required to adhere to the advertisement code prescribed under the Cable TV Network Rules framed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. As per these codes, there is no prohibition on advertisement of liquor and tobacco. A proposal to bring about an uniformity in the advertisement codes of DD and encrypted satellite TV channels uplinked from abroad, is under consideration of the Government with a view to prohibit liquor and tobacco advertisements during the day and prime time when children are likely to be watching TV programmes and permit such advertisements only during the night after 11 PM and before 6 AM.

Broadcasting of news in Rajasthani

†369. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news in Rajasthani language is broadcast from Jaipur and other Centres of All India Radio in Rajasthan, if so, the timings thereof;

(b) whether Government intend to promote Rajasthani language in news broadcasting and to separately broadcast the news by using it in order to make the mother tongue understandable and enriched; and

(c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) All India Radio, Jaipur is broadcasting a daily news bulletin of 10 minutes at 1840 hours and a weekly Lok Ruchi Samachar of 5 minutes at 1800 hours on Thursdays in Rajasthani. These bulletins are relayed by all AIR Stations in Rajasthan and serve the purpose of popularizing the language.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.